



Hebrew Language Academy

HLA Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday February 4, 2025 at 6:00 PM EST

All board meetings take place at Hebrew Language Academy Charter School (2186 Mill Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234). All meetings are open to the public.

If you would like to make a comment during the next board meeting, please email boardhla@hebrewpublic.org and include your full name to sign up and indicate if you will be attending in person or via Zoom.

If you wish to make a public comment via Zoom, please ensure your name on Zoom matches the sign-up name provided.

When it is your time to speak during the meeting, your name will be called, and you will be unmuted.

We request you limit your comment(s) or question(s) to three minutes. You will receive a one-minute warning before your allotted time elapses.

Board and staff members do not typically respond to public comments at the time they are made. However, we will do our best to respond to unanswered questions within a few business days.

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			6:00 PM
A. Record Attendance		Ellen Green	
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Ellen Green	
II. Board Actions			
A. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda	Vote	Ellen Green	
B. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Ellen Green	
Approve minutes for HLA Board Meeting on January 7, 2025			
C. Approval of the 2025-26 Academic Calendar	Vote	Ellen Green	
III. School Report			
A. School Leader Report	FYI	Daniella Steinberg	
IV. Network Report			
A. Report from Hebrew Public Leadership	FYI	Valerie Khaytina	
V. Public Comments			
A. Review of Public Comments			
VI. Executive Session			
A. HLA Renewal	Discuss	Daniella Steinberg	
VII. Closing Items			
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Ellen Green	

Hebrew Language Academy is an exceptional, diverse public charter school that teaches Modern Hebrew to children of all backgrounds and prepares them to be successful global citizens.

DRAFT



Hebrew Language Academy

Minutes

HLA Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday January 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

HLA Charter School

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Trustees Present

Alice Li (remote), Ellen Green (remote), Mike Tobman (remote), Stella Binkevich (remote), Valerie Khaytina (remote)

Trustees Absent

Brian Tobin

Guests Present

Daniella Steinberg, Elyse Castellano (remote), Gerard Del Rosario, Lauren Murphy (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Ellen Green called a meeting of the board of trustees of Hebrew Language Academy to order on Tuesday Jan 7, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

C. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

Mike Tobman made a motion to adopt the January 2025 agenda.

Ellen Green seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approve Minutes

Mike Tobman made a motion to approve the minutes from HLA Board Meeting on 12-10-24.

Valerie Khaytina seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. School Report

A. School Leader Report

Daniella Steinberg, Head of School, provided an update on the following:

- **Events and Activities:** The school hosted an ugly sweater contest before winter break and a kindergarten event celebrating winter holidays with songs and activities planned by Hebrew teachers. Upcoming events include a family chess tournament, Black History Month showcases, and the Winter Olympics, a competitive team-based activity during specials. Additional events include a Hebrew author visit for 5th-grade students and the HLA Shootathon fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

- **Student Engagement Initiatives:** early morning basketball sessions once a week is a new initiative aimed to improve attendance and academic performance, while the chess program is expanding engagement with tournaments and after-school activities.
- **Progress on KPIs:** Notable achievements include improved attendance at 93% (up from 90% last year), reduced suspension rates from 6% to 3%, and meeting goals for new student applications. However, challenges remain in teacher certification compliance, staff vacancies, and under-enrollment in kindergarten, though progress is being made. Enrollment overall stands at 602, slightly below the budgeted target of 635.

III. Network Report

A. Report from Hebrew Public Leadership

Valerie Khaytina provided an update on her involvement in potentially a new school in Stamford, Connecticut, and shared briefly about a recent visit. She highlighted the potential for growth within the organization and brought attention to two HLA alumni who joined her during the visit. These alumni, both college sophomores, showcased the impact of HLA's education. One is studying neuroscience, and the other, inspired by her experience at HLA, is studying speech therapy and has developed a passion for languages, including modern Hebrew, sign language, Chinese, and Japanese.

HLA is continuing to create partnerships with community-based organizations that will hopefully continue to grow student enrollment.

IV. Executive Session

A. HLA Renewal

Valerie Khaytina made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:23 pm.

Mike Tobman seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

The HLA renewal visit was discussed with the board.

Mike Tobman made a motion to exit executive session.

Stella Binkevich seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellen Green

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2025-2026 HLA Calendar

General Notes:

- September 2: First Day of School (half day)
- June 26: Last Day of School (half day)
- 3:30pm dismissal Monday - Thursday, 1pm dismissal Friday

School Closings

September 2: Labor Day
September 23-24 : Rosh Hashanah
October 2: Yom Kippur
October 13: Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 20: Diwali
November 11: Veterans Day
November 27 - 28: Thanksgiving
December 24 - January 1: Winter break
January 19: MLK Day
February 16 - 20: Midwinter Break
March 20: Eid-al-Fitr
April 2 - 10: Spring Break
May 25: Memorial Day
May 27: Eid-al-Adha
June 19: Juneteenth

Half Days

September 2-3: Half Day for Students (in-person)
November 20: Family Conferences, Half Day for Students (in-person)
November 26: Day before Thanksgiving, Half Day for Students (in-person)
December 23: Day before Winter Break, Half Day for Students (in-person)
February 12: Family Conferences, Half Day for Students (in-person)
April 1: Day before Spring Break, Half Day for Students (in-person)
May 7: Family Conferences, Half Day for Students (in-person)
June 25: Half Day for Students (in-person)
June 26: Last Day of School, Half Day for students (in-person)

Remote Days

None

Blackout Days

August: 19-29

September: 2,3, 22, 25

October: 1, 3, 10, 14, 17, 21

November: 7, 10, 12, 20, 21, 26

December: 1, 23

January: 2, 5, 16, 20

February: 12, 13, 23

March: 19, 23

April: 1, 13, 28-29

May: 5-8, 12, 22, 26, 28

June: 18, 22, 25, 26

Family Conferences (half day for students)

November 20-21: Q1 Family Conferences

February 12-13: Q2 Family Conferences

May 7-8: Q3 Family Conferences

Marking Periods

Marking Period 1: Tuesday 9/2 - Friday 11/7

Marking Period 2: Monday 11/10 - Friday 1/23

Marking Period 3: Monday 1/26 - Wednesday 4/1

Marking Period 4: Monday 4/13 - Friday 6/26

Reading and Math Diagnostic Window

September 2-

State Testing

- NYSITELL Window:
- NYSAA ELA Assessment: April 28-29
- NYSAA Math Assessment: May 5-6
- NYSAA Sci Assessment: May 12
- NYSESLAT Speaking Testing Window (NY) :
- NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, Writing Testing Window (NY) :

Hebrew Public Assessments:

- IA #1

- ELA:
- Math:
- **IA #2**
 - ELA:
 - IA #2 Math: